

FILED

FEB 20 2025

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
TOLEDO

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff,) INFORMATION
v.)
CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and)
STEVEN V. LIBERTORE,)
Defendants.)
CASE NO. 3 : 25 CR 68
Title 18, United States Code,
Section 371.
JUDGE KNEPP
MAG JUDGE CLAY
COUNT 1
(Conspiracy, 18 U.S.C. § 371)

The United States Attorney charges:

General Allegations

At all times relevant to this Information:

1. From approximately September 2019 through October 2022, Defendant CHERYL L. LIBERTORE was the bookkeeper for Graphic Signs, LLC, a Michigan limited-liability company with its principal place of business in the Northern District of Ohio, Western Division.
2. As the bookkeeper for Graphic Signs, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE had access to and control of various financial accounts, including credits cards, belonging to Graphic Signs and its owner.
3. CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and STEVEN V. LIBERTORE were married.

ORIGINAL

Statutory Allegation

4. From in or around September 2019 until in or around October 2022, in the Northern District of Ohio, Western Division, and elsewhere, the Defendants, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and STEVEN V. LIBERTORE, knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed to commit an offense against the United States, to wit: knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud and attempting to do so, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, and pictures, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

Manner and Means

5. It was part of the conspiracy that CHERYL L. LIBERTORE used her access to Graphic Signs's financial accounts and credit cards to embezzle funds belonging to Graphic Signs for her personal use.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and STEVEN V. LIBERTORE obtained short-term, high-interest small business loans in Graphic Signs's name in order to fund and conceal CHERYL L. LIBTERORE's embezzlement.

7. It was further part of the conspiracy that when lenders or credit card companies asked to speak with the owner of Graphic Signs, CHERYL L. LIBTERTORE would give the telephone to STEVEN V. LIBERTORE, who falsely claimed to be Graphic Signs's owner.

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and STEVEN V. LIBERTORE contacted lenders and credit card companies using wire communications, namely, telephone calls and internet communications, from Ohio to other states.

Overt Acts

9. On or about August 26, 2021, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE used an American Express credit card belonging to Graphic Signs to make a down payment on a vacation rental in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

10. On or about December 6, 2021, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE used an American Express credit card belonging to Graphic Signs to purchase airfare for a family vacation to Cancun, Mexico.

11. On or about February 10, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE obtained a \$57,000 business loan from CAN Capital, which was not authorized by Graphic Signs's owner.

12. On or about March 23, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE applied for a loan through accounts receivable financing from Forward Financing, resulting in Graphic Signs incurring approximately \$45,415 in debt, which was not authorized by Graphic Signs's owner.

13. On or about March 24, 2022, STEVEN V. LIBERTORE falsely portrayed himself as the owner of Graphic Signs in order to obtain financing from Forward Financing.

14. On or about March 31, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE obtained loans totaling \$48,434 loan from Fundbox, Inc., which were not authorized by Graphic Signs's owner.

15. On or about April 27, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE and STEVEN V. LIBERTORE contacted American Express via telephone and attempted to remove a hold on a credit card account belonging to Graphic Signs.

16. On or about July 28, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE used a Southwest Airlines Visa credit card belonging to Graphic Signs to make a final payment on a vacation rental in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

17. On or about August 5, 2022, STEVEN V. LIBERTORE falsely portrayed himself as the owner of Graphic Signs in order to obtain a loan from Funding Metrics.

18. On or about August 8, 2022, CHERYL L. LIBERTORE obtained a \$23,405 loan from Funding Metrics which was not authorized by Graphic Signs's owner.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

CAROL M. SKUTNIK
Acting United States Attorney

By:



AVA R. DUSTIN
Toledo Branch Chief